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ACTION COPY

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

SECRET

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Action

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Info

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DE RUMJIR 2271 2110650
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P 300350Z
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T SAIGON 2271

JULY 30

E X D I S

FOR KOMER WHITE HOUSE FROM PORTER

REF: STATE 17508 *rel 14 vats (as) vats*

1. WE DID NOT INTEND TO GIVE YOU IMPRESSION OF "IMMEDIATE" OR "VIGOROUS" REJECTION OF YOUR SUGGESTED PRE-ELECTION MEASURES. WE PERHAPS OVERSTATED OUR FEELING THAT CONFISCATIONS OF GOODS AND TRIALS OF ARMY OFFICERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD NOT CREATE USEFUL PRE-ELECTION CLIMATE. WE THOROUGHLY CONCUR THAT GVN SHOULD DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO CREATE PROPER ATMOSPHERE, EVEN THOUGH GVN IS NOT, AS YOU KNOW, RUNNING FOR OFFICE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO SUPPLY SITUATION, WE MERELY NOTED THAT PROVINCE REPORTS FAIL TO INDICATE CHRONIC SHORTAGES OF ITEMS SUPPORTING PACIFICATION. YOUR REACTION THAT "SUPPLY SITUATION IS SO MUCH BETTER" THAN YOU HAD THOUGHT IS THEREFORE RATHER MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN SITUATION WARRANTS. ARE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHY WE WHO FACE PROBLEM OF SUPPLY TO FORTY-THREE PROVINCE CAPITALS, TWO HUNDRED ODD DISTRICT CAPITALS, AND THE AUTONOMOUS CITIES, ARE NEVER LIKELY BE SATISFIED WITH SUPPLY SITUATION WHILE VC ARE AROUND. THEREFORE REGRET WE CANNOT ASSURE YOU THAT SUPPLY PROBLEM "LICKED", AND WE APPRECIATE AND APPROVE OF YOUR EFFORTS TO HELP AT YOUR END. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST HERE.

3. MATTER OF YOUR SUGGESTION OF ARVN OFFENSIVE HAS BEEN MENTIONED TO WESTMORELAND, WHO POINTS OUT THAT IT IS AND HAS BEEN HIS CONTINUING PURPOSE HERE TO KEEP ARVN IN ACTION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. HE HAS ELECTION PERIOD IN MIND IN THIS CONNECTION.

LOOSE
BT

SECRET

NOTE: Advance copy to S/S-O 3:24 a.m., July 30.
Passed White House, DOD, CIA 3:24 a.m., July 30.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Jan J...* DATE *6/11/82*

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE *1*

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

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Aug 2271
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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action

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NSC

CG III MAF PASS AMCONSUL DANANG 432 FOR POLAD THOMSEN

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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SUBJ: ELECTION LAW DRAFTING COMMITTEE

RSR

1. COMMITTEE PUSHING TO COMPLETE WORK, STARTED SESSIONS
EARLY BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON, ATE DINNER AT MEETING
HALL AND HELD EVENING SESSION LASTING UNTIL 2230 HOURS
MAY 31. MOST OF DAY DEVOTED TO REGULATIONS FOR CAMPAIGN.
FOLLOWING DECISIONS TAKEN:

(A) CANDIDATES MAY NOT USE PRIVATE MEANS IN CAMPAIGN

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AND MUST CAMPAIGN ONLY ALONG LINES AND WITH MEANS PROVIDED
BY LOCAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE. INTENTION IS TO INSURE
ABSOLUTE EQUALITY AMONG CANDIDATES SO FAR AS MATERIAL
MEANS CONCERNED. COMMITTEE VOTED 14 TO 9 WITH ONE
ABSTAINING TO ADOPT FOLLOWING STATEMENT THESE IDEAS:
"ELECTION CAMPAIGN SHALL BE ORGANIZED ON BASIS OF
COMPLETE EQUALITY BETWEEN CANDIDATES, WITH MEANS FOR
CAMPAIGN DECIDED BY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE. CANDIDATES MAY
NOT DECIDE FORM OF CAMPAIGN THEMSELVES".

(B) LOCAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES ARE SEPARATE BODIES
NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH LOCAL ELECTION CONTROL
COMMITTEES. COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THAT CANDIDATES
MAY SERVE ON CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE
THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ON IT. OTHER MEMBERS
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES NOT YET INDICATED.

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(C) COMMITTEE GENERALLY AGREED, BUT WITHOUT FORMAL VOTE, THAT REGISTRATION AND SCREENING OF CANDIDATES SHOULD BE ACCORDING FOLLOWING SEQUENCE: (1) APPLICATIONS TO RUN RECEIVED; (2) FIRST LIST OF CANDIDATES POSTED PUBLICLY, BEFORE ANY SCREENING DONE; (3) COMPLAINTS

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ABOUT FIRST LISTING RECEIVED; (4) LOCAL ELECTION CONTROL BOARDS SCREEN CANDIDATES TO DECIDE WHETHER THOSE APPLYING ARE ELIGIBLE; (5) LOCAL ELECTION CONTROL BOARD PUBLICLY POSTS LISTING OF CANDIDATES WHICH IT HAS DECIDED ARE ELIGIBLE; (6) LOCAL ELECTION CONTROL BOARD RECEIVES COMPLAINTS ABOUT SECOND LIST; (7) CENTRAL ELECTIONS CONTROL BOARD RECEIVES APPEALS ON DECISIONS OF LOCAL BOARDS.

(D) COMMITTEE TOOK VOTE ON TIME FOR FIRST POSTING OF LIST OF CANDIDATES, DECIDED THAT FIRST POSTING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING END OF REGISTRATION PERIOD AND BEFORE LOCAL ELECTION CONTROL BOARDS SCREEN CANDIDATES. VOTE WAS 20 TO 4. COMMITTEE ALSO VOTED 16 TO 9 THAT SECOND POSTING SHOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER LOCAL SCREENING.

(E) COMMITTEE VOTED 16 TO 8 THAT CENTRAL ELECTIONS CONTROL BOARD MUST ACT ON COMPLAINTS WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THEM.

(F) CAMPAIGN WILL BE 15 DAYS LONG, ENDING AT LEAST ONE FULL DAY BEFORE ELECTION. IN DISCUSSIONS THIS APPEARED

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MEAN CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN AUGUST 26 AND END SEPTEMBER 9.

(G) PRINTING COSTS, OFFICE SUPPLIES FOR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES AND SIMILAR CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES WILL BE PAID BY GVN. COMMITTEE VOTED THAT FUNDS ALLOTTED SHOULD VARY FROM 2 TO 3 PIASTERS PER VOTER, DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF CANDIDATES IN DISTRICT. VOTE WAS 23 TO 2.

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(H) COMPLAINTS ABOUT CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ARE TO BE SETTLED BY LOCAL ELECTION CONTROL COMMITTEE. NO PROVISION FOR APPEAL. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

(I) COMMITTEE DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF MULTIPLE VOTING AT SOME LENGTH, DECIDED AGAINST MARKING OR HOLDING IDENTITY CARDS TO ENSURE VOTERS ONLY VOTE ONCE. FINAL DECISION WAS SIMPLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THOSE WHO VOTE MORE THAN ONCE BE SEVERELY PUNISHED AND THAT CONTROL BE EXERCISED BY KEEPING RECORDS OF NAMES OF POLLING PLACES. COMMITTEE ALSO DECIDED THAT LOCAL COURTS TRYING VIOLATIONS OF ELECTION LAW SHOULD HAVE ONLY ONE JUDGE AND NO "PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES".

(J) IN EACH ELECTORAL DISTRICT, CANDIDATES MUST CHOOSE SYMBOL WHICH IS UNLIKE THAT OF ANY OTHER CANDIDATE

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IN THEIR DISTRICT. THIS ISSUE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE, PARTICULARLY ON QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT CANDIDATES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS SUCH AS CROSS OR LOTUS. ISSUE NOT COMPLETELY RESOLVED.

2. COMMITTEE APPARENTLY DOES NOT INTEND HOLD ANY MORE PLENARY SESSIONS UNTIL JUNE 4. IN MEANTIME SUBCOMMITTEE ONE AND TWO WILL FINALIZE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. TE CHAU FOLLOWER TRAN THANH HIEP WAS PRESENT AT MAY 31 SESSION, FIRST MEETING HE HAS ATTENDED SINCE HIS SUBCOMMITTEE THREE PRESENTED ITS REPORT. POSSIBLE HIS RETURN TO COMMITTEE CONNECTED WITH TWR CHAU RETURN TO VIET NAM.

4. HIEP TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY TAKE UP PROBLEM OF GIVING GVN SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO ENLARGE DIRECTORATE, AS SUGGESTED BY KY AND THIEU AT MAY 24 NATIONAL CIVIL-MILITARY CONFERENCE (EMBIEL 4917). HE ALSO SAID HE EXPECTS COMMITTEE WILL FORWARD THREE DRAFT LAWS TO GOVERNMENT, ONE FOR EACH SUBCOMMITTEE, RATHER THAN ONE UNIFIED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS. LODGE

BT

NOTE: ADVANCE DELIVERY TO S/S-O: WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA 6/1/66
10:20 AM

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